

## **Manila Regional Office - Compensation and Pension Benefits**

Office Location: Unites States Embassy  
1131 Roxas Blvd. Ermita  
0930 Manila Philippines

Phone: Metro Manila, Trunk Line 528-2500;  
Outside Metro Manila, toll-free number is 1-800-1-888-5252 (PLDT)  
Fax Number: 526-8822

E-mail inquiries: <https://iris.va.gov/>.

Website: <http://www.va.gov>

VA provides veteran's benefits for World War II Philippine service veterans as well as veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces living in the Philippines.

VA has maintained a full service Regional Office in the Philippines since 1921. The Regional Office is located at 1131 Roxas Blvd. Manila 0930 in the U.S. Embassy Annex Building. The office functions the same as a stateside regional office. Services provided include:

- Taking claims for entitlement to all types of VA benefits
- Processing claims for service-connected disability compensation, non-service connected pension, dependents indemnity compensation, death pension, dependents education benefits and vocational rehabilitation..
- Answering VA benefit questions

Veterans service representatives are available from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Fridays to answer benefits questions. If you would like to speak to a representative or make an appointment to speak with a representative in person please call Metro Manila, Trunk Line 528-2500 or Outside Metro Manila, toll-free number 1-800-1-888-5252 (PLDT)

### **ALL SERVICES PROVIDED BY VA ARE FREE**

Virtually all monetary benefits (compensation, pension, educational assistance, etc.) are payable to U.S. Armed Forces veterans living in the Philippines with the exception of Home Loans. Home loan guaranties are available only in the United States and selected territories and possessions.

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**BENEFIT PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE MANILA VA REGIONAL OFFICE**

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## Disability Compensation Benefits

### What Is VA Disability Compensation?

Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for disabilities that are a result of or made worse by injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. Disability compensation is also paid to certain veterans disabled from VA health care.

### Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible for disability compensation if you have a service-related disability and you were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

### How Much Does VA Pay?

The amount of basic benefit paid ranges from \$123 to \$2,673 per month, depending on how disabled you are.

**Note:** *You may be paid additional amounts, in certain instances, if:*

- you have very severe disabilities or loss of limb(s)
- you have a spouse, child(ren), or dependent parent(s)
- you have a seriously disabled spouse

### How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-526, *Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension*. ***If you have any of the following material, please attach it to your application:***

- Discharge or separation papers (DD214 or equivalent)
- Dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates)
- Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)

*You can also apply online through our web site at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>.*

### Related Benefits

Priority Medical Care  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
Clothing Allowance  
Automobile Grant & Adaptive Equipment

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## **Former Prisoners of War Benefits (POWs)**

### **Former Prisoners of War**

In 1981, Congress passed Public Law 97-37 entitled "Former Prisoners of War Benefit Act." This law accomplished several things. It established an Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War and mandated medical and dental care. It also identified certain diagnoses as presumptive service-connected conditions for former POWs. Subsequent public laws and policy decisions by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs have added additional diagnoses to the list of presumptive conditions.

### **What Are the Presumptive Conditions for Former POWs?**

Today, former POWs are generally entitled to a presumption of service-connection for seven diseases, regardless of the length of captivity, if manifested to a degree of 10 percent or more after discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service. These diseases are:

- Psychosis
- Dysthymic disorder, or depressive neurosis
- Post-traumatic osteoarthritis
- Any of the Anxiety States
- Cold Injury
- Stroke and Complications
- Heart Disease and Complications

If a former POW was interned for 30 days or more, the following additional diseases are presumed to be service-connected:

- Avitaminosis
- Chronic Dysentery
- Helminthiasis
- Malnutrition, including associated Optic Atrophy
- Peptic Ulcer Disease
- Any other nutritional deficiency
- Beriberi
- Cirrhosis of the Liver
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Pellagra and any other nutritional deficiency
- Peripheral Neuropathy, except where directly related to infectious causes

### **How Should a Former POW Apply for VA Compensation?**

Former POWs can apply for compensation for their service-connected injuries, diseases, or illnesses by completing VA Form 21-526, *Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension*. They can also apply online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

### **Are There Benefits for Survivors of Former POWs?**

Yes. The major benefit is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) which is a monthly benefit payable to the surviving spouse (and the former POW's children and parents in some cases) when the former POW:

- was a service member who died on active duty; *or*
- died from service-related disabilities; *or*
- died on or before September 30, 1999 *and* was continuously rated totally disabled for a service connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 10 years immediately preceding death; *or*
- died after September 30, 1999, *and* was continuously rated totally disabled for a service-connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 1 year immediately preceding death.

DIC is terminated for a surviving spouse who remarries, but can be resumed if the remarriage ends in death, divorce, or annulment. However, a surviving spouse who remarries *on or after* attaining age 57, and *on or after* December 16, 2003, can continue to receive DIC.

### Is Special Assistance Available to Former POWs?

Former POW information is available at  
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm>.

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## Pension

### What Is VA Pension?

Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled *or* age 65 or older.

### Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible if:

- you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time\*, **AND**
- your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law, **AND**
- you are permanently and totally disabled, **OR**
- you are age 65 or older.

**\*Note:** Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service from August 2, 1990 to present is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to other periods of war such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

FAMILY INCOME LIMITS (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2008)	
<i>If you are a...</i>	<i>Your yearly income must be less than...</i>
Veteran with no dependents	\$11,830

<b>Veteran with a spouse or a child</b>	<b>\$15,493</b>
<b>(Veterans with additional children: add \$2,020 to the limit for EACH child)</b>	
<b>Housebound veteran with no dependents</b>	<b>\$14,457</b>
<b>Housebound veteran with one dependent</b>	<b>\$18,120</b>
<b>Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has no dependents</b>	<b>\$19,736</b>
<b>Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has one dependent</b>	<b>\$23,396</b>
<b><i>Note:</i> Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income.)</b>	

### How Much Does VA Pay?

VA pays you the difference between your countable family income and the yearly income limit that describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar. .

**Note:** Certain expenses (i.e., medical expenses, education expenses, or expenses related to the last illness or burial of a dependent) paid by you are taken into consideration when arriving at your countable family income.

### How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-526, *Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension*. If available, attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates) and current medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports). You can also apply online through our web site at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>.

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## Dependents indemnity Compensation (DIC)

### What Is DIC?

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a

- military service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, OR
- veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling
  - for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
  - since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
  - for at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

### Who Is Eligible?

The **surviving spouse** if he or she:

- validly married the veteran before January 1, 1957, OR

- was married to a service member who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated, OR
- was married to the veteran for at least one year, OR
- had a child with the veteran, AND
- cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND
- is not currently remarried.\*

**Note:** A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

The **surviving child(ren)**, if he/she is:

- not included on the surviving spouse's DIC
- unmarried AND
- under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

**Note:** Certain helpless adult children are entitled to DIC. Call the toll-free number above for the eligibility requirements.

The **surviving parent(s)** may be eligible for an income-based benefit.

### How Much Does VA Pay?

The basic monthly rate of DIC is \$1,154 for an eligible surviving spouse. The rate is increased for each dependent child, and also if the surviving spouse is housebound or in need of aid and attendance. VA also adds a transitional benefit of \$286 to the surviving spouse's monthly DIC if there are children under age 18. The amount is based on a family unit, not individual children. Benefit rate tables, including those for children alone and parents, can be found on the Internet at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates> or call our office.

### How Should a Claimant Apply?

Claimants should complete VA Form 21-534 *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child*.

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## Death Pension Benefits

### What Is Death Pension?

Death pension is a benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime veterans.

### Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible if:

- the deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- he or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war\*, **AND**
- you are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased veteran, **AND**

- your countable income is below a yearly income limit set by law.

**\*Note:** Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service from August 2, 1990 to present is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to other periods of war such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

INCOME LIMITS ( EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2008)	
<i>If you are a...</i>	<i>Your yearly income must be less than...</i>
Surviving spouse with no dependent children	\$ 7,933
Surviving spouse with one dependent child	\$ 10,385
(Add \$2,020 to the limit for EACH additional child)	
Housebound surviving spouse with no dependents	\$ 9,696
Housebound surviving spouse with one dependent	\$12,144
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with no dependents	\$12,681
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with one dependent	\$15,128
Surviving child (no eligible parent)	\$ 2,020
<b>Note:</b> Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income)	

### How Much Does VA Pay?

VA pays you the difference between your countable income and the yearly income limit which describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar.

**Note:** Certain expenses (i.e., medical expenses, education expenses, or expenses related to the last illness or burial of the veteran or a dependent) paid by you are taken into consideration when arriving at your countable income.

### How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-534, *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by Surviving Spouse or Child*. If available, attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates).

## What Is Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance?

Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance is an education benefit for eligible spouses and children of certain veterans. Eligible persons can receive up to 45 months of full-time or equivalent benefits for:

- College, Business, Technical or Vocational Courses, High School Diploma or GED, Independent Study or Distance Learning courses
- Correspondence Courses (Spouses Only), Apprenticeship/On-the-Job Training
- Remedial, Deficiency, and Refresher Training (in some cases)
- The cost of tests for licenses or certifications needed to get, keep, or advance in a job

**Note:** Each individual State approves schools and courses. You may call us to find out if your school or program is approved for VA educational benefits.

## Who Is Eligible?

To be an eligible for Survivors' & Dependents' Education Assistance you must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

- a veteran who died, or is permanently and totally disabled, as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.
- a veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence.
- a service member missing in action or captured in the line of duty by a hostile force.
- a service member forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- **a service member hospitalized or receiving outpatient care for a VA determined service-connected permanent and total disability may be eligible for DEA benefits. (Effective December 23, 2006)**

## How Long Is the Period During Which This Benefit May Be Used?

Spouses and surviving spouses have 10 years from the date VA establishes eligibility to use the benefit. Surviving spouses of veterans who died while on active duty have 20 years from the date of the veteran's death to use the benefit. (benefits can't be paid before December 10, 2004 for anyone whose 10 year period ended prior to that date).

Children may use the benefit while they are between the ages of 18 and 26.

**Note:** *These time limits can be extended under certain circumstances. For details, call the toll-free number or visit the web site shown below.*

## How Much Does VA Pay?

The amount VA pays is based on the type of training program and training time (i.e. full-time, half-time, etc). Benefits are paid monthly and in arrears. If attendance is less than a month or less than full-time, payments are reduced proportionately.

## How Can You Apply?

After finding a program approved for VA training, complete VA Form 22-5490, *Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance*, and submit it to the VA regional office

that serves the state where you will train. You can also apply online through our web site at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>.

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### **Filipino World WAR II Veterans Benefits**

Filipino veterans with service in one of the following military forces may establish eligibility to VA benefits:

- **Commonwealth Army of the Philippines with service from July 26, 1941 through June 30, 1946 while the Commonwealth Army was in the Armed Forces of the United States.**
- **Special Philippine Scouts who enlisted between October 6, 1945 and June 30, 1947.**
- **Guerilla with service prior to July 1, 1946.**

#### **What Type of Monetary Benefits Are Available?**

Service-connected disability compensation, and a clothing allowance are benefits available to Filipino veterans.

**Compensation** is a monthly payment to a veteran disabled by an injury or a disease incurred or aggravated on active service. You must have been discharged under *other than dishonorable* conditions to be eligible, and must currently suffer from disabling symptoms to receive compensation.

**Clothing allowance** is an annual payment to a veteran, if he/she has a service-connected disability or condition that requires the veteran to wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic device that wears out or tears clothing. The clothing allowance may also be paid if physician-prescribed medication for a service-connected skin condition causes irreparable damage to clothing.

The following table details which benefits are available based on the type of service performed. Benefits are payable at a rate of \$.50 (half rate) or \$1.00 (full rate) for each dollar authorized. Unless otherwise noted, payment is made at the full rate.

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### **Filipino World War II Veterans Equity Fund**

The President of the United States signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, 2009, authorizing the release of a one-time, lump-sum payment to eligible World War II (WWII) Philippine veterans. These payments are being made by VA from a \$198 million appropriation established for this purpose. Veterans had until February 16, 2010 to apply. The following veterans are eligible for payment:

- **Commonwealth Army of the Philippines veterans with service from July 26, 1941 through June 30, 1946 while the Commonwealth Army was in the Armed Forces of the United States.**

- **Special Philippine Scouts who enlisted between October 6, 1945 and June 30, 1947.**
- **Recognized Guerillas with service prior to July 1, 1946.**

To be eligible for the new benefit, service members in each of the three categories above must have been discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

- Eligible veterans who are not United States citizens will receive a one-time payment of \$9,000.
- Eligible veterans who are United States citizens will receive a one-time payment of \$15,000. [Frequently Asked Questions about the WWII Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund](#) ( [English Version](#) | [Tagalog Version](#) )